

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01329 251548Z
ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00
SCA-01 A-01 H-02 /015 W
-----251553 044980 /43
P 251511Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1947
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1329

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS CGEN
SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF LEBANESE VISA SERVICES FROM DAMASCUS TO
BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS WORKLOAD

1. DURING NEXT FIVE OR SIX WEEKS EMBASSY DAMASCUS HOPES
ARRANGE TRANSITION IV SERVICES TO BEIRUT IN MANNER WHICH
WILL HELP SMOOTH RESUMPTION IV ISSUANCE AND INVOLVE MINIMUM
INCONVENIENCE TO APPLICANTS. WE INTEND COORDINATE CLOSELY
WITH BEIRUT TO ENSURE APPLICANTS ARE ACCURATELY INFORMED
HERE ON WHAT SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN BEIRUT DURING
VARIOUS STAGES OF TRANSITION.

2. AT SAME TIME WE INTEND REVERSION OF DAMASCUS IV
OPERATION TO NORMAL ROUTINE AS COMPARED EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES
PROVIDED TO EXPEDITE APPLICANTS DURING LEBANESE EMERGENCY.
IN THIS REGARD, WE INTEND THAT REQUESTS FOR IV NUMBERS
WHICH MUST BE REQUESTED FROM DEPARTMENT BY APRIL WILL FOLLOW
USUAL FORMAT. WE WISH AT THIS TIME EXPRESS PARTICULAR
THANKS TO QUOTA CONTROL OFFICE IN DEPARTMENT
FOR CONSISTENT COOPERATION OVER PAST SEVEN
MONTHS WHILE NUMBERS WERE REGULARLY REQUESTED BY CABLE
DUE EMERGENCY OPERATION, DESPITE INEVITABLE INCONVENIENCE
THIS PROCEDURE MUST HAVE IMPOSED ON DEPARTMENT.
DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGARD WAS GREAT
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ASSISTANCE TO OUR OPERATION.

3. WE HAVE NOTED IN RECENT WEEKS SHARP DECREASE IN
CORRESPONDENCE, INCLUDING CONGRESSIONAL, ON VISA CASES
COMPARED WITH FIRST STAGES OF LEBANESE OPERATION HERE
IN SUMMER AND EARLY FALL. WE BELIEVE MAJOR REASON FOR
SUCH SHARP DECREASE HAS BEEN SUCCESS AT EXPEDITIOUS

PROCESSING OF ALL LEBANESE CASES HERE WHICH HAS REMOVED
NECESSITY FOR CORRESPONDENCE WITH INTERESTED PARTIES
IN U.S. WHO WERE NATURALLY INTERESTED IN MOST
EXPEDITIOUS ISSUANCE POSSIBLE OF VISAS TO
RELATIVES.

4. AT PRESENT THOSE WHO REPORT THEY ARE DOCUMENTARILY
QUALIFIED ARE GENERALLY GIVEN FINAL APPOINTMENTS WITHIN
2 WEEKS. WE ARE SCHEDULING BETWEEN 12 AND 15
APPOINTMENTS PER DAY THROUGH MID-MARCH. NUMBER OF
APPOINTMENTS MADE AFTER THAT DATE WILL DEPEND ON
NUMBER OF LOCAL STAFF.

5. ASIDE FROM QUESTION OF BEIRUT LOCALS PRESENTLY
HERE, WE WILL SHORTLY REQUEST BY SEPTTEL EXTENSION
OF 2 PIT POSITIONS TO GET US THROUGH TRANSITION
PERIOD AND SUMMER RUSH. DEMAND FOR VISAS BY
SYRIANS IS RUNNING APPROX 50 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR'S
RATE.

MURPHY

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Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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